

PALM SUNDAY – 13th APRIL 2025

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Through the Forty Days of Lent we have been making our way towards Holy Week and Easter following the Stations of the Cross and participating in the self-offering of Christ through our smaller acts of sacrifice and self-denial. Today, Palm Sunday, we arrive at the gates of Jerusalem and with Him enter the Holy City. On Thursday we gather in the Upper Room for the Mass of the Lord's Supper. On Friday we gather at the foot of the Cross – "we adore Thee O Christ and we bless Thee, because by Thy Holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world" – and await, through Holy Saturday, the glorious Resurrection of Christ on Easter Morning – "He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!". May this Holy Week be a time of renewal and grace for us all.

Mass Intentions this Sunday (13th April – **PALM SUNDAY**) Saturday (St. John Kemble) **No** Stations of the Cross 4-00 p.m. Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Anne & William Cochrane (RIP) (J.Evans); 10-30 a.m. Michelle O'Brien (RIP) (Philip & Patrick O'Brien). **Palm Sunday – Please arrive in plenty of time for the Blessing of Palms.**

Holy Week Services

Monday (14th) 11-00 a.m. Funeral Mass – Sid Leaker (RIP) ; 7-00 p.m. St. Joseph's – **Holy Week Service** (Churches Together in Neath) on the theme of " Mary Magdalen ". Please come along and support.

Tuesday (15th) 11-30 a.m. **CHRISM MASS** at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Swansea. Archbishop Mark invites us all to join with him in this Diocesan celebration of the Institution of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper.

Wednesday (16th) (St. Joseph's) 9-30 a.m. Terry Woolcock (RIP) (Pat, Donie & family); (St. John Kemble) 11-00 a.m.

HOLY THURSDAY (17th April) (No Coffee Morning this week) 7-00 p.m. **Mass of the Lord's Supper** – followed by " watching in prayer " with the opportunity for **Confession** and to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament until 9 o'clock.

GOOD FRIDAY (18th April) – 2-00 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion. 5-30 to 7-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Church open for private prayer (private Stations of the Cross) 6-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Stations (and Veneration) of the Cross.

HOLY SATURDAY (19th April) 8-00 p.m. **EASTER VIGIL MASS**

EASTER DAY (20th April) 9-00 a.m. (St. John Kemble); 10-30 (St. Joseph's) Roger Fluck (RIP) (Peter & Isabel).

Sid Leaker (RIP) Please remember Sid in your prayers and the family at this time. Sid's Funeral Mass will be here in St. Joseph's this Monday 14th April at 11-30 a.m. The Coffin will be received in to the Church at 5-00 p.m. on Sunday Evening.

Aileen Buckingham (RIP) Peter and Isabel would like to thank everyone for messages of sympathy and for prayers and cards. Received. Much appreciated and thank you.

Holy Baptism Please remember Carwyn Lintem in your prayers who will be baptised into the Church on Easter Sunday at 12 -00 midday after the morning Mass.

Readers: This Sunday (13th Palm Sunday) 6-00 p.m. Sian Loynes; 10-30 a.m. Bernadette Payne. **Next Sunday** (20th – Easter Day) 10-30 a.m. Mary Walker.

Divine Mercy Sunday (Second Sunday of Easter - 27th April) at Holy Cross Church, Swansea, 1-00 to 2-20p.m. Confession, 2-30 p.m. Blessing of Image & Exposition. 3-00 p.m. Chaplet of Divine Mercy. 3-30 p.m. Holy Mass.

Confirmation and First Holy Communion in 2025. Regular attendance at Mass is an essential part of preparation for receiving these sacraments. Classes take place before Mass at 9-30a.m. (First Holy Communion) and after Mass at 11-30 a.m. (Confirmation). Archbishop Mark has kindly agreed to celebrate on **Tuesday 27th May** at 7-00 p.m. The dates of the First Holy Communion the Sacrament of Confirmation here in St. Joseph's Mass to be announced later.

Parish 80th Anniversary V.E Day Celebration Event – Sunday 11th May immediately following the 10-30 a.m. Mass. All welcome. No charge but please bring something for the cold buffet table.. If interested please sign the notice at the back of the church indicating your name, number of adults and of children and the finger food you are able to provide. We are also hoping to display some 1945 memorabilia – if you have any to lend we will organise nearer to the time. Thank you. (**Parish Guild Meeting** – 1-00 p.m. Monday 7th April in the Hall.

Candles: Sacred Heart - Teresa Lacovic (Sp.Int.); Our Lady – C. M. (Sp. Int.); St. Joseph – The Bereaved.

Anniversaries Edna McCarthy (2011); Terence Woolcock (2023); Vincenzo Colomazza (2010); Kathleen Jarrett (2017); Roger Fluck (2023). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Parish SVP Group Angela is stepping down as Treasurer after many years of sterling service. A big thank you Angela! We would love someone with skills in excel spreadsheets to volunteer in her place. Please contact Anne Guest on 07741283098 for more information about the role.

The Sick and Housebound Please continue to remember in your prayers all those who are sick and housebound, those in hospital and in our local care homes. Especially at this time, Bridie Johnson, Julie, Stephen & Jason Saunders, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna and Joe O'Brien, Margaret Jeffrey, Marion Brocksopp., Marlene John, Pat Day, Daniel John, Nora Reynolds, Adrian Macpherson-Jones, Roger Horton, Kath Davies, Paul Leaker, David Vaudin. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

Lenten Alms This year divided between Mary's Meals and HCPT.

Donations for Flowers to decorate the Church at Easter gratefully received.

Health & Safety Please report/clean all spillages and ensure prayer kneelers are left upright after use. Thank you.

Last Sunday's Collection: £385-48 (plus Direct Debits); St.John Kemble - £69-50. Many thanks.

Aid to Gaza Clean/warm clothes and toiletries required. (No food or medicines). Please speak to Vi or phone 01639 776481

PRAYER AFTER MASS *St. Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our defence against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all other evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*

“ Renew Your wonders in this our day, as by a New Pentecost. Grant to Your Church that, being of one mind and steadfast in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and following the lead of blessed Peter, it may advance the reign of our Divine Saviour, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace. Come Holy Spirit, in Your power and might to renew the face of the earth”. (Pope St.John XXIII).

TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL - The Presbytery, Hillside Lane, Neath, SA11 1TG. 01639 643323 Parish Website – www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk

